



U.S. Application No. 09/954,806

Our Case No. 09792909-5185

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A secondary battery comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and an electrolyte,

wherein the positive electrode includes a positive electrode mixture layer capable of occluding and releasing light metal;

wherein the negative electrode includes a negative electrode mixture layer capable of occluding and releasing light metal;

wherein a the charge capacity of the negative electrode is expressed by the sum of a first capacity component by occluding and releasing light metal and

a second capacity component by precipitating and dissolving light metal on said negative electrode at charging voltages below overcharging; and

~~means for stably precipitating the light metal in the negative electrode in a state where an open circuit voltage is lower than an overcharge voltage,~~

~~wherein the ratio (A/B) of thickness A of the positive electrode mixture layer and thickness B of the negative electrode mixture layer is 0.92 or more.~~

2. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the thickness A of the positive electrode mixture layer and the thickness B of the negative electrode mixture layer lies within the range of 80 μ m to 250 μ m, both inclusive.

3. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the negative electrode mixture layer contains a carbonaceous material.

4. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the negative electrode mixture layer contains graphite.

5. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light metal includes lithium.

6. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrolyte contains LiPF_6 .

7. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrolyte contains a nonaqueous solvent and electrolytic salt, where the concentration of the electrolytic salt in the nonaqueous solvent is 2.0 mol/kg or less.

8-12. (Canceled)

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The amendment to claim 1 is supported by the specification at page 14, first paragraph, at page 15, second paragraph, and by Examples 1-7, page 28. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.